

<p style="text-align: center;">Florence Need-based Roundtable Fall 2006</p>

1. What is the profile of the neediest students at your institution?

- Family median income is \$25,000
- Non-traditional
- Transportation issues
- Child care issues
- Students who work may become non-Pell eligible but doesn't mean they are not needy.
- Independent/Non-traditional students have life expenses in addition to college expenses.
- LTAP not going towards the cost of attendance
- Neediest students most often just missed Pell Grant eligibility
- Lack of vision for their future
- Most likely to have crisis at home and stop attending school
- Institution looks at students' need after all scholarships/grants have been applied
- Met need with loans
- Working full-time and going to school full-time. Student does not receive as much aid due to work.
- Loan indebtedness at 4-year ranges between \$12,000 and \$20,000. Loan indebtedness at 2-year is roughly \$4,000.

2. How do we allow the neediest students access to colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Priority deadlines may prevent students from receiving grants and scholarships.
- Needy students tend to wait until the last minute.
- We need to put a "face" on Need-based like LIFE and Palmetto Fellows.
- PFS and LIFE go to the more affluent students
- Move some of the merit-based money in the State to need-based.
- PFS and LIFE recipients tend to apply for additional outside and institutional scholarships.
- FAFSA can be intimidating.
- It's not just the neediest but the needy. It can be a two-parent income middle class family.
- May not have the support from parents
- May not have access to parents' financial information to complete the FAFSA.
- Need to involve more parents
- Low income families do not want to complete any forms that confirm their low financial situation.

- Better partnerships with local high schools and adult education.

3 . What aid is available for our neediest students?

- Pell Grant
- Loans
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Academic Competitiveness Grant
- SMART Grant
- There is a large institutional commitment to need-based aid.
 1. Discount rate
 2. Helps with competition between schools students are deciding to attend
 3. Even though there is a commitment to need-based aid several students have been counseled to go to a less expensive institution
- Have matching program where institutions match the State funds with institutional dollars.
- Access and Equity money: some schools match it.
- There is a belief in the community and in the legislature that students attending two-year institutions have their education paid for through grants/scholarships. This is not true.
- There is also a perception that State scholarships pay for the expenses at a four-year institution.
- Some institutions have said "It is nice to help needy students attend school".

4 . How do we retain the State's neediest students at the colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Do we allow them in? We can't retain them if they are not in school.
- Students that perform well should be rewarded.
- Award Need-based Grant on a sliding scale. If a student has a high GPA then he/she would receive a little more than a student with a lower GPA.
- In high school students were coddled. College is a culture shock in terms of the academic rigor.
- Tutoring
- Student Success Center
- Include a service component in the renewal criteria for the NBG.
- If new industry comes to town then students will go to work instead of school.
- Some students are supporting families and going to school.
- Better information should be given to high schools and adult education.

- Send postcards to all students who have applied to institution about financial aid opportunities and qualifications.
- College work-study program in addition to Federal work-study program
- Senior-level Management support

5 . Are there special programs targeted at this population?

- It comes down to an affordability issue.
- It is a campus culture issue. Faculty may not see needy students as promising.
- Stop-out programs (Where do the students go?)
- Students are taking out loans and Alternative loans without the knowledge of the Financial Aid Office.
- Students with a large amount of loans do not return to school even if they have scholarship and grant eligibility.

6 . How can the State better serve our neediest students?

- Create and Model need-based loan after SC Teacher loan program. There should be a forgiveness component for service in SC.
- Use LTAP up to Cost of Attendance
- Partner with One-Stop Shops and Adult Education to reach non-traditional population
- Allow for summer disbursement